Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Previously Presented) A method for determining whether an intended use of a computational component is permitted, comprising:

(a) determining a geographic location of a key device in communication with and physically separate from the computational component, the key device containing a location module for determining wirelessly geographic location relative to a selected coordinate system;

(b) comparing the determined geographic location with at least one predetermined permitted geographic location permitted by a license; and

(c) when the determined geographic location is not a permitted geographic location under the license, determining that use of the computational component is not permitted.

2.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the key device is a dongle, wherein the location device is a satellite-based location determining module, and further comprising:

(d)   when the determined geographic location is a permitted geographic location under the license, a licensing validation agent in the computational component determining that use of the computational component is permitted.

3.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the determining step (a) further comprises:

determining Global Positioning System or GPS coordinates of the key device; and

converting the GPS coordinates into a region identifier.

4.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the permitted geographic location is one or more region identifiers and wherein in the determining step (c) the determined geographic location is a permitted geographic location when the region identifier identified in the converting step is included in the one or more region identifiers.

5-6.   (Canceled)

7.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein a permitted use is defined by a license and further comprising:

(d) a licensing validation agent in the computational component determining whether the key device is in communication with the computational component;

(e) when the key device is not in communication with the computational component, the licensing validation agent in the computational component determining that the computational component is not validly licensed; and

(f) when the key device is in communication with the computational component, the licensing validation agent in the computational component determining that the computational component is validly licensed.

8.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein a permitted use is defined by a license and further comprising:

(d) a licensing validation agent in the computational component authenticating the key device; and

(e) when the key device is not authenticated successfully, the licensing validation agent in the computational component determining that the computational component is not validly licensed.

9.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein a permitted use is defined by the license and further comprising:

(d) a licensing validation agent in the computational component determining whether the key device is local to the computational component; and

(e) when the key device is not local to the computational component, the licensing validation agent in the computational component determining that the computational component is not validly licensed.

10.   (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium comprising processor-executable instructions to perform the steps of claim 1.

11.   (Previously Presented) A logic circuit comprising an algorithm operable to perform the steps of claim 1.

12.   (Previously Presented) A system for validating a license to use a computational component, comprising:

a locating module to determine, wirelessly, a geographic location relative to a selected coordinate system of a key device containing the module, the key device being physically separate from and in communication with the computational component; and

a validation agent operable to (a) compare the determined geographic location with at least one predetermined permitted geographic location permitted by the license and (b) when the determined geographic location is not a permitted geographic location under the license, determine that the computational component is not validly licensed.

13.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the validation agent is in the computational component, wherein the key device is a dongle, wherein the location device is a satellite-based location determining module, and wherein the validation is further operable to (c) when the determined geographic location is a permitted geographic location under the license, determining that the computational component is validly licensed.

14.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, wherein the determined geographic location is initially expressed in Global Positioning System or GPS coordinates and the validation agent is further operable to (c) convert the GPS coordinates into a region identifier.

15.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the permitted geographic location is one or more region identifiers and wherein the determined geographic location is a permitted geographic location when the region identifier is included in the at least one predetermined region identifier.

16-17. (Canceled)

18.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the validation is further operable to (c) determine whether the key device is in communication with the computational component; (d) when the key device is not in communication with the computational component, determine that the computational component is not validly licensed; and (e) when the key device is in communication with the computational component, determine that the computational component is validly licensed.

19.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the validation agent is further operable to (c) authenticate the key device and (d) when the key device is not authenticated successfully, determining that the computational component is not validly licensed.

20.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the validation agent is further operable to (c) determine whether the key device is local to the computational component and (d) when the key device is not local to the computational component, determining that the computational component is not validly licensed.

21.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the validation agent is located in the key device.

22.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the validation agent is located in the computational component.

23.   (Previously Presented) A method for validating a license to use a computational component, comprising:

(a) providing a key device to validate the license when in communication with the computational component, the key device being physically separate from and connected to the computational component;

(b) a licensing validation agent in the computational component determining whether the key device is local to the computational component; and

(c) when the key device is not local to the computational component, the licensing validation agent in the computational component determining that the computational component is not validly licensed.

24.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 23, further comprising:

(d) the key device determining a geographic location of the key device while in communication with the computational component;

(e) comparing the determined geographic location with at least one predetermined permitted geographic location permitted by the license; and

(f) when the determined geographic location is not a permitted geographic location under the license, determining that the computational component is not validly licensed.

25.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the determining step (d) comprises:

determining a set of satellite-based coordinates of the key device; and

converting the coordinates into a region identifier.

26.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the permitted geographic location is one or more region identifiers and wherein in the determining steps (d) and (f) the determined geographic location is a permitted geographic location when the region identifier identified in the converting step is included in the one or more region identifiers.

27.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the set of satellite-based coordinates are Global Positioning System coordinates.

28.   (Canceled)

29.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, further comprising:

(g) the licensing validation agent in the computational component determining whether the key device is in communication with the computational component;

(h) when the key device is not in communication with the computational component, the licensing validation agent in the computational component determining that the computational component is not validly licensed; and

(i) when the key device is in communication with the computational component, the licensing validation agent in the computational component determining that the computational component is validly licensed.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, further comprising:

(g) the licensing validation agent in the computational component authenticating the key device; and

(h) when the key device is not authenticated successfully, the licensing validation agent in the computational component determining that the computational component is not validly licensed.

31. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the key device is not local when an electronic address of the key device is not contained in a predefined set of electronic addresses.

32. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the key device is not local when a time delay between the exchange of communications between the key device and computational component exceeds a selected time delay.

33. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium comprising processor-executable instructions to perform the steps of claim 23.

34. (Previously Presented) A logic circuit comprising an algorithm operable to perform the steps of claim 23.

35-46. (Canceled)

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the key device is configured to operate only as a local device without network capabilities.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 47, wherein the key device is not allowed to have an IP and/or MAC address that is within a range of IP addresses and/or MAC addresses, respectively, defining the computational component and/or a network and/or subnetwork containing the component.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 47, wherein the key device is required to have an IP address that is the same as an IP address of a network interface card associated with the computational component but can have a port number that is different from the port number of the card.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein a communication protocol between the computational component and the key device is designed to work only in a low-latency environment, whereby the protocol would fail if the physical separation (relative to a communication medium connecting the computational component with the key device) were too great.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50, wherein, when a time delay between a request and a response thereto equals and/or exceeds a maximum time delay, the key device is not considered to be local to the computational component and, when the time delay is less than the maximum time delay, the dongle is considered to be local.

52. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the key device is configured to operate only as a local device without network capabilities.

53.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 52, wherein the key device is not allowed to have an IP and/or MAC address that is within a range of IP addresses and/or MAC addresses, respectively, defining the computational component and/or a network and/or subnetwork containing the component.

54.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 52, wherein the key device is required to have an IP address that is the same as an IP address of a network interface card associated with the computational component but can have a port number that is different from the port number of the card.

55.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein a communication protocol between the computational component and the key device is designed to work only in a low-latency environment, whereby the protocol would fail if the physical separation (relative to a communication medium connecting the computational component with the key device) were too great.

56.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the key device is a dongle and wherein, when a time delay between a request and a response thereto equals and/or exceeds a maximum time delay, the key device is not considered to be local to the computational component and, when the time delay is less than the maximum time delay, the dongle is considered to be local.

57.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the key device is required to have an IP address that is the same as an IP address of a network interface card associated with the computational component but can have a port number that is different from the port number of the card.

58.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein a communication protocol between the computational component and the key device is designed to work only in a low-latency environment, whereby the protocol would fail if the physical separation (relative to a communication medium connecting the computational component with the key device) were too great.

59.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the key device is a dongle, wherein, when a time delay between a request and a response thereto equals and/or exceeds a maximum time delay, the key device is not considered to be local to the computational component and, when the time delay is less than the maximum time delay, the dongle is considered to be local.

60.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, further comprising:

(d) a licensing validation agent in the computational device receiving a clock setting from the key device;

(e) the licensing validation agent in the computational device comparing the clock setting with an expiration date of the license;

(e) when the clock setting is within the permissible term of the license, the licensing validation agent in the computational device determining that use of the computational component is permitted; and

(f) when the clock setting is not within the permissible term of the license, the licensing validation agent in the computational device determining that use of the computational component is not permitted.